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CLAIMS

- 1        1. A method of controlling the drilling of wells under pressure,  
2 comprising the following steps:
  - 3            a) providing a principal drill string in a principal wellbore;
  - 4            b) providing at least one concentric casing string surrounding at  
5 least a portion of the principal drill string in the principal wellbore;
  - 6            c) pumping a controlled volume of fluid down the at least one  
7 concentric casing string and returning the fluid up a common return  
8 annulus in the principal wellbore, so that the friction caused by additional  
9 fluid flow up the return annulus is greater than the friction caused by the fluid  
10 flow from the principal drill string to frictionally control the well .
- 1        2. The method in claim 1, wherein there may be included a  
2 plurality of concentric casing strings.
- 1        3. The method in claim 2, wherein the fluid flowing down the  
2 plurality of concentric casing strings and returning up the common return  
3 annulus defines a frictional component within the system which restricts the  
4 return fluid flow to control the well.
- 1        4. A method of drilling oil and gas wells under pressure, utilizing  
2 hydraulic frictional controlled drilling, comprising the steps of:
  - 3            a. providing at least one concentric casing string to define an  
4 plurality of annulus;
  - 5            b. injecting fluid down some the annulus;
  - 6            c. returning the fluid up at least one return annulus so that the  
7 return flow creates adequate hydraulic friction within the annulus to control  
8 the return flow within the well.
- 1        5. The method in claim 4, wherein the oil and gas well may be a  
2 straight, directional or multilateral well.

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1       6. A system for controlling fluid flow within an oil and gas well  
2 under pressure, which comprises:

3           a. a first drilling string defining a first annulus therein;  
4           b. a plurality of casings positioned around the drill string to define  
5 a plurality of annuli therebetween;  
6           c. fluid flowing down some of the plurality of annuli and returning  
7 up at least one common return annulus, for defining a frictional component  
8 within the system to restrict the return fluid flow sufficiently to control the  
9 well.

1       7. The system in claim 6, wherein the oil and gas well may be a  
2 straight, directional or multilateral well.